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Mayor
Jo Ann Wilson

City Council

**Mayor Pro-Tem,
Place 3**
Elaine Priest

Place 1
Josh McCabe

Place 2
Michelle Tye

Place 4
Sam Eason

Place 5
Ashley Majors

**City
Administrator**
Cynthia Northrop

City Attorney
Carvan Adkins

City Secretary
Shannon
Montgomery

Fire Chief
Darrell Fitch

**Interim Police
Chief**
Brody Brown

**Public Works
Director**
Sean Densmore

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021

Location: VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

MEETING START TIME: 6:30 PM

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. City Secretary Montgomery called roll and announced a quorum of Council Members present.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jo Ann Wilson

Council Member Josh McCabe

Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Priest

Council Member Michelle Tye

Council Member Sam Eason

Council Member Ashley Majors

City Staff Present:

City Administrator Cynthia Northrop

City Attorney Carvan Adkins

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery

Fire Chief Darrell Fitch

Interim Police Chief Brody Brown

Public Works Director Sean Densmore

Public Presentations and Input

The Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any presentations made to the Council at this time concerning an item not listed on the agenda. The Council will hear comments during this designated time. Request form, or email, must be submitted to the City Secretary, via email to citysecretary@cityofrhome.com, prior to 4:00pm to be recognized.

The following made Public Presentations to the Council:

- Tommie Eason – Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas
- Cathy Coffee – Mount Lane, Rhome, Texas
- Michelle Pittman Di Credico – Cheyenne Trail North, Rhome, Texas
- Deborah BeCraft – West Second, Rhome, Texas

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Wilson stated Spring has started and it is time for Rhome to start fresh and listed the events for April:

- April 19 thru April 27, 2021 (M-F) – Early Voting at Rhome Community Center
- April 22, 2021 – Regular City Council Meeting
- April 29, 2021 – Special City Council Meeting

Consent Agenda

All items under this section are recommended for approval for the Consent Agenda. These items are of a routine nature and require only brief deliberation by Council. Council reserves the right to remove any item on the Consent Agenda for further deliberation.

A. Minutes of City Council Workshop Session dated March 20, 2021

B. Minutes of City Council Regular Session dated March 25, 2021

C. Appointments of Kirby Lord and Todd Attebery as Rhome Reserve Police Officers

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Priest, seconded by Council Member Eason to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented, including the original set of draft minutes from March 25, 2021 City Council Regular Session.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe:	Aye
Council Member Tye:	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Priest:	Aye
Council Member Eason:	Aye
Council Member Majors:	Nay

Motion carried 4-1 with Council Members McCabe, Tye, Priest and Eason voting for and Council Member Majors voting against.

Monthly Staff Reports and Board Minutes

All items under this section are for informational purposes only; no action will be taken by Council.

D. Departments: Administration, Building & Development, Fire Rescue, Municipal Court, Police, and Public Works

E. Minutes of Regular Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting dated March 1, 2021

No discussion.

Regular Session – Old Business

F. Discussion and any necessary action authorizing the City Administrator to execute a standard Developers agreement with Sahihi/Holly Parkway development

City Administrator stated that both the City Attorney and Developer have reviewed the proposed agreement and both agree with it.

Motion made by Council member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Tye, to authorize the City Administrator to execute the Developers agreement with Sahihi/Holly Parkway Development as presented.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe:	Aye
Council Member Tye:	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Priest:	Aye
Council Member Eason:	Aye
Council Member Majors:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Session – New Business

G. Discussion and any necessary action regarding proposed CDBG Community Grant

City Administrator Northrop reminded Council of the May 3, 2021 submission deadline and stated that she wanted to give Council ample time to review prior to submission.

Council Member Eason asked Lenore Hellman, GrantWorks, if the process has gone as smoothly as was expected. Hellman stated the process was very smooth and provided that she and two additional persons have reviewed the application.

Northrop stated that she has been very pleased with GrantWorks and Hellman's professionalism.

Hellman stated that the City should receive a response no later than November 2021.

Motion made by Council Member Eason, seconded by Council Member Majors to approve the application for submission.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe:	Aye
Council Member Tye:	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Priest:	Aye
Council Member Eason:	Aye
Council Member Majors:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Discussion regarding Right-of-Way definition as it pertains to political sign placement

Both City Attorney Adkins and City Administrator Northrop both defined the Right-of-Way as being in front of the utility poles and this is how the City had defined the Right-of-Way for the past several years in its application of the placement of political signs. City's interpretation of sign placement behind the utility poles is common, clear and fair for all candidates.

Discussion only, no action taken.

I. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a contract for Rhome Police Chief background check

City Administrator Northrop stated background checks are performed for all potential employees and would like to use an independent contractor to perform the background for the Police Chief candidate. Northrop stated that the Police department does have the funds necessary to execute this contract.

Motion made by Council Member Tye, seconded by Council Member Majors, to approve the contract and authorize the City Administrator to execute said contract.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe:	Aye
Council Member Tye:	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Priest:	Aye
Council Member Eason:	Aye
Council Member Majors:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

J. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Council interaction with City Employees

Mayor Wilson stated that the City Administrator oversees all employees and that the City Administrator works with the Mayor. City Attorney Adkins stated that as an elected official, council members, as a group, have official immunity. A

single/separate council member does not have the authority to go directly to an employee. Adkins recommended that council members not go to an employee directly, but go to the City Administrator.

Discussion only, no action taken.

K. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Senior Luncheons

Council Member Majors stated she asked that this agenda item be placed on the agenda as she feels that the senior luncheons should be re-enacted and have the City Administrator oversee the luncheons.

Council members discussed if senior luncheons was a function of the city and whether or not activities should take place in the Senior building as it is not up to code, and would the City be responsible?

Mayor Pro Tem Priest suggested that the senior organization reach out to the area churches to see if they could use their facilities and that the organization should get their 5013c status.

Discussion only, no action taken.

L. Discussion and any necessary action regarding Parks

Council Member Majors would like Council to consider updating the City's current parks prior to spending funds for a new park in ByWell. Majors continued by listing items in need of repair at the Family Park.

City Administrator Northrop stated that Public Works Director Densmore and staff continue to work on repairs, to which Densmore listed off items that have been repaired and the cost of repairs that need to be made.

Mayor Pro Tem Priest asked if Public Works was keeping a list of all the maintenance items and if those items would be listed in the upcoming budget for discussion.

Majors asked again if Council could consider maintaining the current parks prior to creating a new one.

Densmore stated that both could be done concurrently with separate budgets.

Council discussed the idea of alternative funding, community surveys, and grant possibilities.

Discussion only, no action taken.

M. Discussion and any necessary action regarding proposed changes to the Employee Personnel Handbook

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to approve the proposed change as presented.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe: Aye
Council Member Tye: Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Pursuant to the following designated section of the Texas Government Code, Annotated, Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act), the Council may convene into executive session to discuss the following:

- N. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offer or to seek advice from attorney
- Long-Term water source
- O. Section 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property - purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have detrimental effect on position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person
- Old Mill & Morris Street
- P. Section 551.074 Personnel – discuss appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or hear complaint or charge against officer or employee in executive session unless officer or employee requests public
- City Administrator
- Q. Section 551.087 – Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations – to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the City seeks to locate, stay or expand in or near the City and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations
- QT

Mayor Wilson convened into Executive Session at 8:22pm.

Mayor Wilson reconvened into Regular Session at 10:13pm.

Reconvene into Regular Session

R. Discussion and any necessary action as a result of Executive Session

Motion made by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Eason, to instruct the City Attorney to amend the City Administrator's current contract as discussed in Executive Session and upon completion authorize the Mayor or the Mayor Pro Tem to execute said contract.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Council Member McCabe:	Aye
Council Member Tye:	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Priest:	Aye
Council Member Eason:	Aye
Council Member Majors:	Nay

Motion carried 4-1 with Council Members McCabe, Tye, Priest and Eason voting for and Council Member Majors voting against.

Future Agenda Items

Council Member Majors requested another agenda item pertaining to city events.

Adjourn

Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 10:16pm.

Minutes approved the 29th day of April 2021.

Jo Ann Wilson
Jo Ann Wilson,
Mayor



Shannon Montgomery
Shannon Montgomery, TRMC
City Secretary